

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-17 are pending in the present application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,245,982, hereinafter Suzuki) in view of Mori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,711,241, hereinafter Mori).

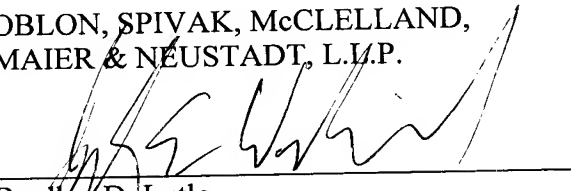
The present application claims priority to JP 2003-280309, which was filed in the Japanese Patent Office on July 25, 2003. The Japanese priority application has a filing date prior to the U.S. filing date of Mori (November 18, 2003).

Therefore, to perfect priority and to overcome all the rejections based on Mori, enclosed is an English translation of a certified copy of the JP priority application number 2003-280309, filed on July 25, 2003, along with a statement that the translation of the certified copy is accurate. Consequently, Mori is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for formal allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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